



The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

2026

Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 3

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James; STM - St Thomas More school

Sat	11 Jul	Vigil of Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
Sun	12 Jul	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
		Sea Sunday (Stella Maris)
9:00am	HC	Mass: Renato Thomas, RIP
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Luke Quinlan - birthday blessings
Mon	13 Jul	Feria
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Josephine Hodgkiss - intention
Tue	14 Jul	Feria
9:40am	HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	Mass: John Asher, RIP
Wed	15 Jul	St Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor - Mem
10:00am	HC	No liturgy
Thu	16 Jul	Feria
8:20am	STM	Mass: All Staff and Parents
9:40am	PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Ruby - 16 th birthday
Fri	17 Jul	Feria
10:00am	HC	Mass: Tom Hyland, RIP
7:00pm	PJ	Mass: Pat Swallow - intention
Sat	18 Jul	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Fr Alex and Fr Richard - thanksgiving <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Patrick McGirl, RIP - anniversary
Sun	19 Jul	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	HC	Mass: Michael Simmonds - 90 th birthday
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Miriam's 4 th birthday

NB: We seek to open the Church **thirty minutes** before any Mass or liturgy

Responsorial Psalm:

Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and **Eucharistic Adoration** is usually on Wednesdays at HC after Mass until 11:00am and every Saturday from 11:00 - 11:15am in SsP&J.

Fr Richard, SMMM, Deacon Tony and Deacon Crispin
10th Anniversary Celebration of Ordination



The 10th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Ordinations of Fr Richard, SMMM, Deacon Tony and Deacon Crispin is this Sunday at the 11:00am in Ss Philip and James church.

There is then a "Bring and Share" celebration buffet in Holy Cross at 1:00pm.

The usual refreshments will not be served after Sunday's Masses, as the celebration buffet is provided instead.

All our clergy are away in Leighton Buzzard for the **Catholic Safeguarding Standard Agency (CSSA) Training** this Wednesday, 15th July. There will be no liturgy on that day.
[NB] last week's newsletter said Thursday in error. Well spotted!

Year Six leavers' Mass

Our year six students from **St John Rigby School** will join us at Mass this Tuesday in Holy Cross Church at our usual 10:00am Mass to thank God and celebrate their successful completion of and departure from primary school to higher education. We continue to keep them in our prayers and wish them all the best in life.

This Sunday is **Sea Sunday**. It is a day to pray for seafarers and fishers and to thank them for the vital role they play in our lives. Please support this year's Sea Sunday by praying for seafarers and by giving to the retiring collection after Mass. This collection is held in support of **Stella Maris** (formerly Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Support is essential to continue their mission both in the UK and globally.

We thank God for **Michael Simonds' 90th birthday** and pray that God will continue to bless him and fill his years with His peace, joy, and guidance.

Happy Birthday, and may God keep you in His care.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ann McCulla, RIP**, whose funeral will take place in Bedford Crematorium this Wednesday, 15th July at 10:00am.

Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM Email: fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org
Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM Email: frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org
The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX Tel: (01234) 352607
HC: Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP
SsP&J/PJ: St Philip and St James Church, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX

Newsletters are available through CASPAR, and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically, please register with CASPAR, either by QR code or by [hyperlink](#) →, and tick the relevant box. (Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969
Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971
Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whitehead 07955 670543 and SsP&J; Ann-Marie Blaney 07867 757598
Website: northbedfordcatholics.org.uk (Contact the Webmaster through the website) Facebook: **North Bedford Catholic Community**
Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Mondays and Thursdays: 9:00am - 12:00pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (Tuesdays: 11.15am - 3:15pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org
Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel/text: 07986 357 320; email: charlie.stallard@gmail.com



**First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
Preparation Programme AD 2026-2027**

The North Bedford Catholic Community provides a united sacramental programme for the combined parishes of The Holy Cross and Saints Philip and James. This is a very important time for the parents and all the family members. It will be a time of growth in your child's faith, and in your own faith as you are expected to play an active and leading role in helping your child through every step of the way. The parish will assist you by providing classes for your child and sessions to aid you in helping your child, but you must commit wholeheartedly to this time of preparation and participate weekly in Sunday Mass and attend all the classes on the programme with your child.

Enrolment Masses: Weekend, 10th/11th October 2026

Rehearsals: Thursday, 25th February 2027 (SsP&J), Wednesday, 19th May 2027 (SsP&J), Wednesday, 26th May (HC Candidates only), Thursday, 27th May 2027 (SsP&J Candidates only)

Advent giving party: Saturday, 28th November 2026

First Reconciliation: Saturday 27th February 2027

Celebration of First Holy Communion Masses: *Corpus Christi weekend*, 29th/30th May 2027

Thanksgiving & celebration Mass: Saturday, 12th June 2027

If you would like to enrol your child onto the Sacramental Preparation Programme AD 2026-2027, enrolment forms are available in the narthex of both churches or online at northbedfordcatholics.org.uk. Completed and signed enrolment forms should be returned **with your child's original Baptism certificate** to Sheila Allen, Parish Secretary, parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or by post on or before Sunday, 26th July 2026. Please ensure you are available for all the dates specified before signing up to the program. Further details of the programme will be discussed at the first meeting with parents and children, which will be held on Wednesday, 9th September 2026 in Saints Philip and James church at 6:30pm. Any questions please contact the catechist Clare Connolly via email, catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or after Mass. The Clergy and our sacramental team look forward to getting to know you and your family better. We look forward to accompanying our children as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. **Fr Alex**

The online **Rosary Group** meets from 8:00am to 8:20am weekdays on Zoom. ID: 833 1504 6319 Password: Rosary

The **Rosary and Divine Mercy Group** meets in SsP&J each Monday at 1:45pm. Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea.

Communion in the pew

Any parishioner with mobility problems may request communion be brought to them in their pew by speaking with a Welcomer when they arrive at Mass.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James

The Repositories are open before and after their respective Masses on Sundays.

Collections for our joint parishes in June

Holy Cross:	£1670.98	Open plate and envelopes
Ss P&J:	£1414.85	Open plate and envelopes

Figures do not include standing orders or donations made by Dona machines in the narthexes or by the QR codes.

**Diocese of Northampton Discernment Day
for Vocations to the Priesthood**

Are you wondering whether God may be calling you to the priesthood? If you are seeking to deepen your relationship with Christ and explore God's plan for your life, you are warmly invited to attend a *Discernment Day for Vocations to the Priesthood* on **Saturday, 8th August at 10:30am** *St Augustine Catholic Church, 1 Langcliffe Drive, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PL*

The day will include prayer, reflection, Mass, fellowship, and opportunities to speak with priests and others who may be discerning God's call. It is open to men aged 16 and above who are considering a vocation to the Catholic priesthood in the Diocese of Northampton.

For further information or to register, please contact: Fr Pius, Vocations Director, Diocese of Northampton.

Email: vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org

Telephone: 01753 523147

Please keep vocations to the priesthood and religious life in your prayers.

Fr Richard's holiday

Fr Richard will travel to Nigeria on Tuesday, 21st July for his annual holiday to see family and friends. He will be back on Tuesday, 1st September. Please pray for his safe journey and please check the newsletter for any changes to weekday Masses.

Confirmation Mass

The Dean, Fr VP Kasireddy, MSFS, will visit our united community to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our children on Friday, 11th September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church. We hope parishioners will attend Mass to support our young people in their faith journeys.

Pastoral visits/Communion to the Sick

If you know anyone who is unwell and is longing for a visit with communion, please contact the parish office with the person's name, address and phone number. Fr Alex, one of our Deacons or one of our Extraordinary ministers will arrange a visit.

Hospital Mass

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, Mass will be celebrated at 2:00pm in the 'Prayer Room' of South Wing hospital. If you are a patient and feel well enough to attend, or if you are a staff member or visitor, please join us for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Mass.

If you are an in-patient, please feel free to contact Deacon Tony - 01234 950 453 (or via email). Deacon Tony can visit you in hospital, particularly on those days.

Food Bank. Items we still need are: Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life Sponge Pudding, Tinned Meat, Tinned Tuna, Jars of Coffee, Bars of Chocolate, and Biscuits. Collecting boxes are in each parish and at SsP&J these boxes are in the parish room.



St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference
1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday

**We break for the Summer on 21st and 28th July
and re-open on 4th August**

**in Holy Cross Church
355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP**

